

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 4, 2005, has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted in response thereto, and is a submission accompanying a request for continued examination.

Claims 1-6 and 8-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 11 and 13 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments made herein are fully supported in the disclosure of the application as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 1-6 and 8-13 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 14-21 of the present application.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9 and 11 Rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Albesa (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,876). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that each of these claims recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art.

Claim 1 recites a telephone comprising a storage unit for storing names to be called and corresponding telephone numbers, an operating unit, including a plurality of numeric keys that are each assigned different characters, for receiving key operations made by a user, and a judgment means for, when a numeric key on the operation unit is pressed, judging whether the press continues for at least a predetermined time. In addition, the telephone includes a searching means for searching the storage unit, when the judgment means has judged affirmatively, for names that include a character

assigned to the pressed numeric key, a display means for displaying a search result, and an accepting means for, when the judgment means has judged negatively, accepting a number assigned to the pressed numeric key as an input of a telephone number. The display means also displays a predetermined number of names from the names found by the searching means, one of the displayed names being in a selection state, the name in the selection state being displayed differently to other names. When a selection changing operation is received by the operating unit, places another name that is currently being displayed into the selection state.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of “a judgment means for, when a numeric key on the operation unit is pressed, judging whether the press continues for at least a predetermined time,” and “a searching means for searching the storage unit, when the judgment means has judged affirmatively, for names that include a character assigned to the pressed numeric key.”

Albesa discloses a device and method for finding a desired entry in a collection of data where the data collection is searched for first entries beginning with a selected character. Albesa performs a data search by inputting a character string. In particular, Albesa starts “when the user selects the option “search lists” in the telephone menu” (Albesa, column 3, lines 38-40). To narrow down the search result, Albesa requires that numeric keys be further pressed to form a character string. Albesa discloses that every time a character is input, a separate and unique search result is displayed on a screen.

Applicants submit that Albesa fails to disclose or suggest each and every element recited in claim 1 of the present application. In particular, it is submitted that the method of finding an entry in a collection of data, and an electronic device to

implement such method of Albesa is neither comparable nor analogous to the telephone as recited in the claimed invention. For instance, Albesa fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of “a judgment means for, when a numeric key on the operation unit is pressed, judging whether the press continues for at least a predetermined time,” and “a searching means for searching the storage unit, when the judgment means has judged affirmatively, for names that include a character assigned to the pressed numeric key.”

The present invention for instance, initiates a search by a single long press of a numeric key to which a plurality of characters are assigned. For example, names containing a character assigned to the key subjected to the long press are retrieved from a memory and displayed on a display screen. The display screen of the present invention is capable of displaying a predetermined number of names, with one name being in selection state, where the name in the selection state is displayed differently from the other names. In addition, the present invention can place another name into the selection state instead of the name currently in the selection state by selection changing operation of a user. Hence, the present invention can perform a series of processing (i.e., from initiating a search to displaying of the search result), by a single long press of a key. Accordingly, the present invention allows a user to perform a telephone book search by a simple operation, saving the user from actuating a plurality of keys.

In contrast, Applicants submit that Albesa neither discloses nor suggests the technology of switching between an operation of displaying desirable search results, and an input operation of a telephone number.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Albesa fails to disclose each and every element recited in claim 1 of the present application.

Moreover, to qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single prior art reference must teach, i.e., identically describe, each feature of a rejected claim. As explained above, Albesa fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Albesa. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable.

As claims 2-4, 6, 8, 9 and 11 depend from claim 1, Applicants submit that each of these claims incorporates the patentable aspects therein, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 5, 10, 12 and 13 Rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a)

Claims 5, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albesa in view of Cushman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,125,287, hereinafter "Cushman"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that each of these claims recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art.

Applicants submit that Cushman fails to cure the deficiencies that exist in Albesa as discussed above.

As claims 5, 10, 12 and 13 depend from claim 1, Applicants submit that each of these claims incorporates the patentable aspects therein, and are therefore allowable

for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-6 and 8-13 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicants also submit that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claims non-obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, and therefore respectfully request that claims 1-6 and 8-13 be found allowable and that this application be passed to issue, along with allowed claims 14-21.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number 101201-00000.

Respectfully submitted,



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SH/lbm

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (Two-months, difference between 3rd and 1st Extension)